

MEMORANDUM BY THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

for the  
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
on

DECLASSIFIED BY:  
JCS DECLASSIFICATION BRANCH  
DATE 2 Dec 1980.....

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON BERLIN AND GERMANY (C)

Serial 00024P61

7 March 1959

1. At the meeting of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Friday, 1  
6 March 1959, it was agreed that the Chief of Naval Opera- 2  
tions would submit ideas for a revised and positive statement 3  
of policy by the United States on Berlin and Germany. The 4  
enclosed draft memorandum for the Secretary of Defense is 5  
submitted in response to this agreement. 6
2. It is recommended that the memorandum for the Secretary 7  
of Defense be approved and forwarded. 8
3. It is recommended that copies of this paper NOT be 9  
forwarded to commanders of unified or specified commands. 10

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D R A F T

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Statement of Policy on Berlin and Germany (C)

1. The Soviet Union continues to pursue an uncompromisingly aggressive policy designed to achieve its goal of global hegemony. A repeated Soviet tactic in connection with this policy is the creation of crises designed to divide and weaken the Free World. The current Berlin crisis is the most flagrant and dangerous example. Regardless of the geographical area of issues involved in the crises, the Soviet policy has been consistent in one vital aspect. The Soviets have pursued a bold, dynamic, expansive strategy designed to improve their situation versus the Free World with demands for changing the world situation in the Soviets' favor. Their final fall-back position is always the status quo. On the side of the Free World there has been relative passivity and lack of initiative. The Western Powers seem to have developed a standard response to the Soviet-created crisis: "How far can we retreat from the status quo but still not seriously jeopardize our security or prestige?" This attitude apparently stimulates the Soviet appetite for ever bolder adventures.

2. To reverse this psychology with particular reference to the Berlin crisis, a drastic revision of American German policy is recommended. It is recommended that the following statements be forwarded to the Secretary of State to be the operative paragraph for presentation of the revised policy to the Soviet Union:

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Enclosure

"The announced turnover of East Berlin and its access 1  
routes to the East Germans on 27 May or thereafter by the 2  
Soviets represents an unwarranted unilateral violation of 3  
international agreements and therefore is unacceptable to 4  
the United States. The United States serves notice on the 5  
Soviet Union that if it implements the turnover the United 6  
States will consider that all agreements with the Soviet 7  
Union regarding Germany will have been abrogated and will 8  
immediately recognize the Federal Republic of Germany as the 9  
legal and sole government of all Germany. The United States 10  
will then undertake to see that there is no Soviet inter- 11  
ference in any way with those functions or acts which the 12  
Federal Republic of Germany considers to be within its 13  
sovereign competency. The Government of the United States 14  
reserves the right to take any other action considered 15  
necessary to maintain such status within the limits of the 16  
German state as is requested by the Government of the 17  
Federal Republic of Germany."

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Enclosure